

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-10 were pending. Claims 1 and 3 have been rewritten and Claims 2 and 4-10 cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Rejections

Claims 1 and 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Belser et al. (US 5,737,344) and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Belser et al. (US 6,021,463) in view of Belser '344. Claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but the Examiner indicated that they would be patentable if amended to incorporate the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 2, have rewritten Claim 3 to incorporate the elements of Claim 1, and have cancelled Claims 2 and 4-10. Accordingly, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony P. Curtis, Ph.D.
Reg. No.: 46,193
Agent for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200